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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRIOR GORHAM, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR USING THE MAIL TO ATTEMPT TO ENTICING AN INDIVIDUAL HE BELIEVED TO BE A CHILD INTO ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Lester William Crayton**, 46, previously of Gorham, Kansas, currently of Eaton, Colorado, was sentenced on November 13, 2003, **by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to nine years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Crayton entered a guilty plea on June 16, 2003, to one count of using the mail to attempt to entice an individual he believed to be under the age of 18 years to engage in sexual activity.

Melgren stated that Crayton admitted at his plea that between May 17, 2002, and June 27, 2002, he chatted with “Dena” whom he believed to be a 14 year old girl, actually an undercover police officer, from his home computer in Gorham, Kansas, over the internet in a chat room titled, “I love older men.” Crayton admitted that he engaged in sexually explicit conversation with “Dena” and attempted to persuade her to engage in sexual activity with him and to create and send sexually explicit photographs of herself to him. Crayton further admitted that he purchased a bus ticket for “Dena” to travel from Chicago to Kansas and sent the bus ticket by United States mail. Crayton further admitted that he was arrested by law enforcement officers while he was waiting for “Dena” to arrive at the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Russell, Kansas, on June 27, 2002. Crayton also admitted that he had rented a motel room to engage in sexual activity with “Dena” and that he intended to take pictures of her with a digital camera.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the KBI, the Russell County Sheriff’s Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger in this prosecution.